Appl. No. 09/808,423
Supplemental Amendment After Final
September 1, 2010

Docket No.: 2556/008
Examiner: Pass, Natalie
TC/A.U. 3686

1.-38.   (Cancelled)

39.   (Currently Amended) A method for facilitating food service management in a health care facility, said method comprising the steps of:

establishing a standard set of therapeutic diet types contained in a master diet type database stored in the memory of a computer-based system;

storing a plurality of food recipes in said memory within a recipe database;

obtaining nutritional data on each food item used in said plurality of recipes and storing said data in said memory within a food item database;

~~utilizing a processor to evaluate a~~ evaluating the nutritional content of each food item, wherein said evaluating is performed by a computer processor;

establishing and storing preselected nutritional criteria in said memory;

verifying ~~with said processor~~ a nutritional value of each of said plurality of recipes in said recipe database, wherein said verifying is performed by said processor;

assigning, with said processor, various food attributes to said recipes based upon said verified nutritional values in said memory;

shaping menu sets of said recipes for each of said established therapeutic diet types in a menu database in said memory based upon said assigned food attributes, wherein said shaping menus sets is performed by ~~with~~ said processor;

providing a remote electronic data link to food service professionals associated with said healthcare facility to access said data;

collecting information from said food service professionals and storing in said memory;

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~~utilizing said processor to create~~ creating menu sets in accordance with said preselected nutritional criteria to said food service professionals, wherein said creating menu sets is performed by said processor;

providing nutritional information associated with said menu sets electronically available to said food service professionals; and

tracking an inventory of food items at said health care facility in said memory.

40.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 39, further comprising the step of ~~utilizing a processor to categorize~~ categorizing said plurality of recipes according to geographic regions having noticeable differences in food tastes, wherein said categorizing is performed by said processor.

41.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 39, further comprising the step of ~~utilizing a processor to eliminate~~ eliminating variances in said therapeutic diet types among differing health care facilities , wherein said eliminating is performed by said processor.

42.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 39, further comprising the step of ~~utilizing a processor to evaluate~~ evaluating diabetic exchange rates of each food item, wherein said evaluating is performed by said processor.

43.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 42, wherein said verification of nutritional value of each of said plurality of recipes is based upon said evaluation of nutritional content and said evaluation of diabetic exchange rates of each food item.

44.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 39, further comprising the step of ~~utilizing a processor to form~~ forming a large library of menu sets in said menu database, wherein said forming a large library of menu sets is performed by said processor.

45.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 44, further comprising the step of allowing said food service professionals to choose a set of menus from said library.

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46.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 39, further comprising the step of suggesting menu sets to said food service professionals based upon said inventory of food items at said healthcare facility.

47.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 39, further comprising the step of suggesting menu sets to said food service professionals based upon an individual patient's preference.

48.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 47, wherein said patient's preference is based upon said patient's particular food tastes.

49.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 47, wherein said patient's preference is based upon said patient's religious beliefs.

50.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 39, further comprising the step of storing said information collected from said food service professionals in said system in a user database in said memory.

51.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 50, wherein said stored information in said user database includes identifying information.

52.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 50, wherein said stored information in said user database includes historical information on prior use of said system by said food service professionals.

53.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 39, further comprising the step of limiting access to said system to food service professionals associated with a healthcare facility.

54.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 39, further comprising the step of authorizing at least one food service professional associated with a healthcare facility to receive information.

55.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 39, further comprising the step of allowing said food service professionals to place food item orders via said system.

56.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 55, further comprising the step of ~~utilizing a processor to~~ automatically ~~update~~ updating said inventory to reflect said orders, wherein said updating is performed by said processor.

57.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 55, wherein said food service professionals can place food item orders with a plurality of food item distributors.

58.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 57, further comprising the step of providing a standard format for order transactions such that said food service professionals can make objective decisions about placing said orders.

59.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 39, further comprising the step of providing said food service professionals the ability to interact with a system proprietor.

60.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 39, further comprising the step of providing said food service professionals the ability to interact with other food service professionals associated with other healthcare facilities.

61.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 39, further comprising the step of providing a search engine such that said food service professionals can search said databases.

62.   (Currently Amended)   A system for facilitating food service management in a healthcare facility, said system comprising:

a data storage device comprising:

a master diet type database containing a standard set of therapeutic diet types;

a recipe database containing a plurality of food recipes;

a food item database containing nutritional data on each food item used in said plurality of recipes; and

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a menu database containing menu sets shaped for each of said therapeutic diet types;

a computer-implemented arrangement ~~for~~ <u>adapted to perform a function, the function comprising</u>:

obtaining said nutritional data;

~~a computer-implemented arrangement for~~ evaluating a nutritional content of each food item;

~~a computer-implemented arrangement for~~ verifying a nutritional value of each of said plurality of recipes m said recipe database;

~~a computer-implemented arrangement for~~ establishing preselected nutritional criteria;

~~a computer-implemented arrangement for~~ assigning various food attributes to said recipes based upon said verified nutritional values;

~~a computer-implemented arrangement for~~ shaping said menu sets based upon said assigned food attributes of said recipes;

<u>collecting information from food service professionals;</u>

<u>suggesting menu sets in accordance with said preselected nutritional criteria to said food service professionals;</u>

<u>making nutritional information associated with said menu sets available to said food service professionals; and</u>

<u>tracking an inventory of food items at said healthcare facility, and;</u>

a remote electronic data <u>input and output</u> link, ~~to~~ <u>wherein</u> food service professionals associated with said healthcare facility ~~to~~ <u>may</u> access the system~~;~~ <u>.</u>

~~a computer-implemented arrangement for collecting information from said food service professionals;~~

~~a computer-implemented arrangement for suggesting menu sets in accordance with said preselected nutritional criteria to said food service professionals;~~

~~a computer-implemented arrangement for making nutritional information associated with said menu sets available to said food service professionals; and~~

~~a computer-implemented arrangement for tracking an inventory of food items at said healthcare facility.~~

63.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 62, further comprising a computer-implemented arrangement <u>adapted to perform a function, the function comprising</u> ~~for~~ categorizing said plurality of recipes according to geographic regions having noticeable differences in food tastes.

64.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 62, wherein said menu database contains a large library of completed menu sets.

65.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 64, further comprising a computer-implemented arrangement <u>adapted to perform a function, the function comprising</u> ~~for~~ allowing said food service professionals to choose a set of menus from said library.

66.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 62, further comprising a computer-implemented arrangement <u>adapted to perform a function, the function comprising</u> ~~for~~ suggesting menu sets to said food service professionals based upon said inventory of food items at said healthcare facility.

67.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 62, further comprising a computer-implemented arrangement <u>adapted to perform a function, the function comprising</u> ~~for~~ suggesting menu sets to said food service professionals based upon an individual patient's preference.

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68.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 62, wherein said data storage device further comprises a user database containing information collected from said food service professionals.

69.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 62, wherein access to the system is limited to food service professionals associated with a healthcare facility.

70.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 62, further comprising a computer-implemented arrangement adapted to perform a function, the function comprising for authorizing at least one food service professional associated with a healthcare facility to receive information.

71.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 62, further comprising a computer-implemented arrangement adapted to perform a function, the function comprising for processing food order transactions placed in the system by said food service professionals.

72.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 71, further comprising a computer-implemented arrangement adapted to perform a function, the function comprising for automatically updating said inventory to reflect said food order transactions.

73.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 71, wherein said food service professionals can place orders with a plurality of food item distributors.

74.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 62, wherein said food service professionals are able to interact with a system proprietor or with other food service professionals associated with other healthcare facilities.

75.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 62, further comprising a search engine adapted to allow said food service professionals to search said databases.

76.   (Cancelled)